

Grade 7 Literacy
Week of January 4 – January 8

Lesson 2: Poem – I Lost My Talk

Poetry is another way of expressing ourselves. Let's take a look at a poem written about residential schools.



Follow this link: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/a-history-of-residential-schools-in-canada-1.702280>

The following is a poem written about residential schools and the loss of identity that occurred for many aboriginal children as a result.

I Lost My Talk

I lost my talk
The talk you took away.
When I was a little girl
At Shubenacadie school.

You snatched it away:
I speak like you
I think like you
I create like you
The scrambled ballad, about my word.

Two ways I talk
Both ways I say,
Your way is more powerful.

So gently I offer my hand and ask,
Let me find my talk
So I can teach you about me.

by Mi'kmaw poet Rita Joe

Once you've read through the poem, complete the following activity.

A. Vocabulary

1. snatched _____

2. ballad _____

3. scrambled _____

4. powerful _____

B. What do you think the author means by "talk" and "your way"? Think about one of the main differences between colonial culture versus Indigenous cultures when answering.

C. What do you think the poet means by "scrambled ballad"?